

REPORT OF  
OLDER BOYS CAMP  
SUMMER 1959

This report will be presented in two sections, the first being a documentary account of what (in the opinion of the leaders) happened in the initial year of operation. The second portion will deal more with the future, including the recommendations and possible scope of this type of program.

PART I

Summer 1959

In as brief a manner as possible, this report will now attempt to outline the most significant observations of the past summer, from both positive and negative viewpoints.

1. What happened to people?

In general it must be noted at the outset that the general ability of both the campers and the leaders was quite high, with the chief implication being that although this would be desirable it might not always be the case in the future.

- a - The camper tends to make more meaningful acquaintances while at camp, due to the intense experience in group living.

N.B: Lack of frequent contact with other persons outside his own group, and hence a lack of outlets, distractions, escapes etc.

This point of course has its negative aspects. What about isolation in the group? Should the camper turn out not to fit into the group due to improper placement for example, this confinement could be quite harmful.

- b - The camper is able to make a closer identity with and hence have a greater understanding of the leader and his role. The increased contact and closer attention that the leader is able to afford, help to bring this about.
- c - The boy lives in a much more permissive atmosphere where a greater degree of self expression is possible.

- d - Due to such factors as listed above, the boy is able to feel even more independent and develop a higher measure of self assurance.
- e - Because of the lack of routine and regimentation the camper is also able to "start to realize" that he is not being dominated.
- f - Identifies his own personal problems, and thus has a better opportunity to do something about it.
- g - Is able to share with other boys of the same age, the more complex problems of the adolescent, through discussion, example, and assistance from the leader.
- h - Personal skills were developed to a far greater extent - due to a more practical application and the need for constant usage.

2. What of the physical setup of the camp?

- a - Base camp on "Lake Wilson". It was in this area that a good deal of the problems were realized. First off, the close proximity of K.K. retards the natural and full development of the OBC and its campers. In order to attract and maintain the interest of the older boy, the identity of the OBC must be established and maintained. Administration of the camp, with regard to its contact with K.K. was difficult and cumbersome. Transportation and the time involved was the other major question mark. Too much of the time was wasted in the process of travelling to and from camp, and then to the park and back etc. It is felt that this time could have been better spent in the park itself and to this end the period of time spent at Wilson was reduced as much as possible. Other points of concern in this area would be over such matters as the prestige factor between Pathfinders vs OBC, and of the conflict that did and might arise over the use of the Wilson camp sites etc.
- b - In "La Verendrye Park". The key note here is the flexibility of the area. Our experience was definitely positive in this regard. Space does not permit a full explanation of routes travelled etc., except to say that over the course of our six trips we were able to both cover and accumulate a fair amount of knowledge



on the park proper and the areas adjacent to it. This is being documented and will be made available to the director of camping.

c - Size of groups.

It was found that the ratio of five boys to one leader worked out very satisfactorily. A group of such a size has several obvious advantages.

- a) Quality of job that can be done with boy.
- b) Size is very workable - good for movement in woods, and six is good from the point of people in canoes.
- c) Discipline and other such considerations are kept to a minimum.

d - Equipment.

On the whole, and with a few minor suggestions, the equipment as used was felt to be most satisfactory. N.B. Canoes, tents.

e - The following are felt to be some of the more important questions to be asked:-

- a) Is the camp to be more than canoe tripping, and is so what?
- b) How can we improve on the selection, and placement of campers?
- c) What about the boy who gets to camp, but who is unable to fit in?
- d) Should there be supervision of the leaders on the trail?
- e) Interviews of the campers and/or parents prior to camp.

To conclude this portion of the report, it was that the decision to keep the camp small in this initial year was good judgement. It proved to be a very workable size, and yet permitted the staff to anticipate some of the future problems of a larger decentralized camp of this nature.

## PART II

### Recommendations

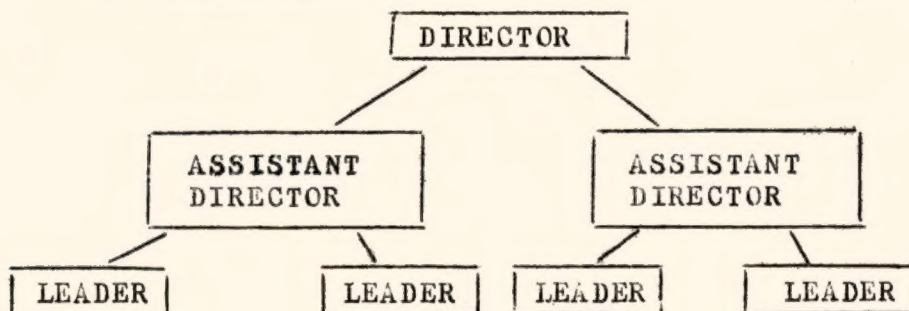
1. If the OBC is to be continued, it should be permanently established in La Verendrye Park.

2. A great deal of importance must be placed on maintaining an exceptionally high standard for the leadership of such a camp

What is important in a leader?

- a - Must be experienced as a "leader".
    - Be able to recognize and help solve group problems.
    - An "individual" centered program.
  - b - Must have a high degree of skills.
    - Be able to adapt skills and techniques to the needs of the group.
    - Be able to transmit and relate to group.
  - c - Must like this type of living.
    - Intense experience with a small group.
    - Minimum of time off etc.
    - Must derive satisfaction from same.
  - d - Should be a person of 1-2 yr. college level.
    - Above the age and problem sphere of group.
3. If this project is to be continued or explored further, a camp under canvas would be a good step, until a final location is established, along with what form size and scope the camp is to take.
4. The following is a proposed outline of such a camp.

a - Organization



Responsibilities

- Director - Staff supervision.  
- Food-supplies-stores-inventories .  
- Administration of camp.  
- Transportation (of trips etc.)  
- Liason with director of camping.
- Asst. Director - Supervision of leaders.  
- Responsible for advanced group of boys.



*Dave today report.*

Dear Dave (Boss)

A few brief comments and suggestions on the camp which is run by the Montreal YMCA. Most of ~~the~~ them will be familiar to you as we have discussed this before.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Kids don't get too worked up over logs while on the trail and one written by the tripper probably won't be a big seller. To give the crews something to remember camp by, I would recommend ~~the~~ opening up a store with a line of sweatshirts. The appeal of these is primarily an "in thing" so I see no reason why they could not be humorous. The campers will know what they are for even if there is no name on them and others who might see them during the year will have their curiosity aroused and may find out about camp.

The confidential information form should be edited to read more smoothly to give a better impression and the smoking query should be eliminated as it is extraneous. Requests for more specific information might be in order if only to stimulate greater response on the general request for info on the back. It might be well to have the kids fill in such things as why they want to come to camp, past camping experience and family vital statistics.

Publicity might be shifted to emphasize challenge and the rewards accruing to those who overcome same. I still like the idea of two pics. the first showing someone in water up to his knees and the second up to his neck. The captions might read respectively, "This is one camp where he'll get his feet wet" and "If he watches his step." The possibility of a snowshoe trip for all staff and former camper should be looked into. This would serve as a reunion, additional publicity (how many other camps do this) and would offer a new challenge and camping experience to all. This would not have to be done right at Landron, but in the general area of tripping if possible.

Parents could be involved more. You might at least try to meet through appointment, those who cannot be at the parents night. Parents might also be involved by inviting them up to bring the kids home. Parents could arrive on the last day of camp and remain one extra day with their child to do a bit of fishing and paddling before returning home. This would not substantially interfere with the staff during the break between sessions or at the end of the summer.

canoes (this word should have been capitalized)

Three people can be cramped in a canoe and getting 17 and 18 footers will alleviate this. At its ultimate, a crack crew with 6 kids out for a month may want to have (and be able to handle) 6 packs plus a separate tent and cook kit. The 16 footers are just too small. The longer ones should be as easy to maneuver as they would draw less water (same displacement).



All canoes should be fitted with a yoke or tump. These should be as standardized as possible in the event that repairs should be necessary and yokes should be placed on top of the ~~thrust~~<sup>gunnel</sup> as they are easier to work on, and make it easier to see ahead when carrying a canoe. If nothing else, these yokes would be made and padded during the week at Anawana.

Repairs...stripping the canvas and using fiberglass would save some canoes which have been written off in the past. The rigid coating permits use of canoes with weak planking and broken ribs. Fiberglass is also lighter than canvas and could be used on old canoes for young small campers who would be taking easier trips anyway. Spare planking should be salvaged and kept at base camp. (Bob's canoe could have been fixed had some been available).

Color...Yellow is offensive to the eye and the reasons for its use assume an incompetence on the part of the staff and campers which may or may not be justified. Green is nice, but used by scouts and Apitachuan. Therefore sky blue is recommended as it is visible and yet appealing to the eye.

#### MAPS

The map cases were totally inadequate and this could be serious when tripping in area never passed ~~before~~<sup>through</sup>. The acrylic spray helped although even this could not prevent the maps from coming apart where folded.

A complete set of large-scale maps which could be sprayed and left in base camp would be worth the effort. Corrections, campsites and other pertinent data could also be kept on these. Another idea might ~~be~~ to put up a large board at base camp and paste the maps on it so that the whole area is covered. This could then be varnished and would be handy for planning trips. The varnish would, however, prevent corrections from being added.

#### First Aid Kits

A colorless, non-stinging, greasy first aid cream would be of use as it would be quick and slightly waterproof, thus remaining in the wound after soap is washed out. Bleach (javel) would be better than peroxide as it has greater chemical stability and its chemical reaction ~~(oxidation)~~ (oxidation) is identical to peroxide.

The number of band aids could be cut and more gauze pads added as the latter are far more versatile. Non-waterproof adhesive tape is an advantage only when a large area is to be covered for a protracted period. Since a person with a really serious injury would be taken off the trail in all probability, waterproof tape should be packed. It holds better and can also be used for some general repairs.

A small curved needle should also be packed with thread for extremely serious cuts. Antibiotics should be carried for the trippers at least since our operation is so small that replacements are impossible to get.



## PACKS

Packs could be ordered with slightly larger dimensions as this would give them a lower center of gravity and keep them from flopping around so much. A design which did not have any straps on the top to grab and rip would also be good. These packs did not close tightly at the top and small items frequently would fall out of overloaded packs.

Packs should be able to take tump lines but these should not be a necessity.

## Tent and Cook Kit

Cylindrical sheaths of heavy canvas should be obtained for carrying tents and cook kits. These can be carried in the arms to offset the weight of a pack or simply tossed up to ride on the packs.

Tent should be heavy canvas and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  or 7 feet square. Waterproof compound may be necessary to eliminate fly. Design is unimportant except for ease and speed of pitching.

Tin plates would be a good addition to cook kit as they are handy in food preparation and may actually be placed over fire without harm. Reflector ovens which are lightweight and small might be worth an investment. Canvas sheaths for these (and perhaps for grates) would also be worthwhile.

## GEOGRAPHY OF BASE CAMP

Base camp is not in too good a location as there are tourists, noise from route 30, no convenient route in or out of camp which has not been logged and access to water systems is not especially good. For starters, the northern side of Camachigama lake or Portage Bay would give better tripping access and eventual location in an area like Chibougamou (?) might be desirable.

It would be well to check lease rights, not only on what we might be able to get on Landron, but also on what we can do on the leases of others. Can we, for example, be legally kicked off a campsite or can we fish as long as we eat the fish on the spot?

## TRAINING

Staff...A staff breaking trip is a must so that newcomers can see how to pitch a tent under trail conditions and pick up tips in organization. Newcomers should also get training in map reading, compass using, selection of camp site and cooking. If possible, some white water should also be run, but navigation on large bodies of water would, perhaps, be of more importance. It would also be good for staff members to give various demonstrations to each other so that each could pick up ideas in communications or teaching as well as new trail skills.

camper...Groups could be trained and sent on a breakin in two trail groups to be split after the trippers have had an opportunity to see them for a few days. Trips should be shortened, especially for younger and inexperienced campers. Some attempt would be made to separate the old from the new and the thought of a longer trip would act as a lure for some to return. In-camp training and a breaking help the campers get in physical shape and also cut down on the need to train while actually on the trail (which never works well anyhow).

add 3

## GENERAL

Paddles should be ordered and sold or rented to campers as part of the overall fee. These should be varnished, strong, not laminated and uniform. Too many campers have miniscule blades or paddles which easily break.

Smaller needles should be used on sail silk or even the canvas of the packs than those which we carried.

Life preservers are bulky and when it is raining they get heavy no matter what. Unless actually worn they are of little use for even a pack has more buoyancy and a canoe is easier to grab. The adoption of yokes or tumps will negate their only positive feature and CIP men we have met have seemed to pay no attention to them. They should be done away with except for non-swimmers.

## FOOD

The stocking of staple foods would permit more variety on the trail and less work for the in-camp staff. More food could also be purchased in bulk and these foods tend to be cheaper. For example, five kinds of meat and potatoes, macaroni and rice give the possibility of 15 kinds of stew. Tomato paste will up this to 30 and cheese will increase the number of varieties to 60 (admittedly some will taste nearly the same).

All vegetables should be dehydrated (except corn) and a mixed vegetable combination kept for stews and soups. Fruit should also be dried as peaches, apples, dates and cocktail are available.

Main suppliers of these items to camps and restaurants in the US are Bernard and Sexton, Inc. The latter should have a Canadian branch. Otherwise, General Mills makes some tripping foods out of soybeans and this should be looked into.

Egg powder is a necessity. It is needed for cooking if nothing else for even T-Bisk recipes frequently call for it as do Twinkles.

Should staple foods be used, a larger number of spices will be necessary. Flour may be completely substituted for T-Bisk as it is cheaper and far more versatile. (pie crusts, crepes, pizza crusts).

As <sup>1</sup> mentioned earlier, I still feel that the Widji standardized lunch would be a huge improvement. It contains slight quantities of cheese, salami, chocolate, peanut butter, kool aid, rye crisp and raisens. It is quick and contains protein, salt, sugar and a few carbohydrates. With the exception of times when bannock was baked and carried, this was more satisfying than any combination used this year.

On the next page is a list of recommended additions and deletions.



add 4

*Add*

egg powder  
tomato paste (not sauce)  
cheese (process)  
salami  
bacon (side)  
soybeans  
(bacon and burger)  
salmon  
chicken  
yeast  
cake mix (variety)  
corn meal  
tuna fish.  
pineapple  
onion soup  
mushroom soup

*Tang*

*corn meal*  
*Chocolate - Bakers Sweet*

#### DEHYDRATED

peas  
green beans  
boston beans  
veg-a-rice  
mixed veg.  
onions  
potato flakes  
mixed fruits  
dates  
peaches  
apples  
*Cabbage*

#### SPICES

vanilla  
maple  
pepper  
chili powder  
onion salt  
garlic powder  
cinamon  
oregano

#### ELIMINATE

pea soup  
canned stew  
*baked beans*